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State Dept. review completed

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1. NEW SOVIET ECONOMIC PLAN TO BE DRAFTED FOR
1959-1965 PERIOD

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[Redacted]

On 25 September, Moscow radio broadcast a joint announcement by the party central committee and government Council of Ministers that by 1 July 1958 the State Planning Commission would draft

a new long-term plan covering the 1959-1965 period. The announcement makes no reference to the 1960 goals of the Sixth Five-Year Plan. The statement reiterates the general objective of "catching up" with the West and approvingly cites the recently stepped-up housing and agricultural programs and the reorganization of industry as factors which must be incorporated in the new plan.

This decision implies that the Sixth Five-Year Plan, whose overambitious goals have been in process of revision since December 1956, has been abandoned. On the face of it, the decision would appear to serve Khrushchev's political interest, since it lengthens the testing period of his industrial reorganization program and puts off the time when the various economic goals he has laid out can be measured against results.

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3. REPORTED RIFT WITHIN SYRIAN RULING CLIQUE

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[redacted] dissension is growing within
the present ruling faction in Syria. [redacted]

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[redacted]
the rivalry between Hawrani and Defense Minister Azm has intensified since Azm's "triumphant" return from Moscow [redacted].
Hawrani and Communist leader Bakdash are renewing because of alleged sarcastic remarks made by Hawrani concerning the importance of the Syrian Communist party.

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[redacted] a power struggle between Baathist elements in the army and followers of Chief of Staff Bizri is reaching serious proportions with each faction attempting to "purge" the other's supporters from influential positions.

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Even if these factional disputes break into the open, there is little likelihood that this would affect Syria's attitudes toward the West. The Baathists are as ideologically opposed to the West as are the proponents of more Syrian-Soviet collaboration. A split within the radical nationalist grouping would present the Soviet Union with a problem as to which faction it would support. Prolonged internal dissension in Syria would tend to retard Syrian subversion in Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon. [redacted]

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4. IRAQIS OPPOSE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN SYRIA

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[Redacted]

Iraqi Minister of Interior General Fattan told the American ambassador on 24 September that any Turkish intervention in Syria would provoke "serious demonstrations" in Iraq. The minister believes that if Iraq alone, or with another Arab state, were to intervene militarily in Syria, there would be a popular upheaval of "catastrophic proportions" and trouble within the Iraqi armed forces themselves. Fattan said that no prime minister, "not even Nuri Said," could order military intervention in Syria and remain in office. Fattan believes the situation can be retrieved only from within Syria.

Comment

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[Redacted]

The Iraqi government, in reply to a recent Syrian note, has denied that it feels threatened by Syrian internal developments, and has said that it would, of course, come to Syria's aid if that country were attacked.

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6. JOINT LABOR ACTION THREATENS FRANCE'S ANTI-INFLATIONARY DRIVE

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[Redacted]

Members of France's three rival labor confederations appear to be planning more joint strike activity than at any time in the past four years to enforce demands for new wage hikes.

The leaders of the Socialist-oriented Workers' Force (FO) claim they have little prospect of restraining their followers in view of the support given by the Christian Workers' Confederation (CFTC) to agitation by the Communist-led General Labor Confederation (CGT). In the key metallurgical industry, components of all three major confederations have already scheduled one joint local 24-hour walkout for 26 September, and another called by the FO for 27 September will also probably be backed by the other two groups.

Labor's demands, intensified by the government's concessions to the farmers, threaten to disrupt the government's anti-inflationary program. The CFTC has already lined up with the CGT and the railroad federations on a tentative 48-hour rail strike for the first week in October. A further test of labor sentiment may come on 17 October, when the CGT has scheduled a mass strike demonstration on both the Algerian problem and the economic issue.

[Redacted]

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